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LIU YING-CHUN

A Worthy Son of the People

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Liu Ying-chun gave his life to save these six children from death

Publisher's Note

This is the story of Liu Ying-chun, a great communist fighter patterned on the examples of those before him who had shown that they were prepared for any sacrifice in serving the people. An ordinary soldier of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, Liu Ying-chun is an outstanding example of China's younger generation nurtured by the thought of Mao Tse-tung. To save the lives of others, he heroically gave his own in March 1966.

Liu Ying-chun had infinite love for the Communist Party and Chairman Mao. He studied Chairman Mao's writings with class feelings. He conscientiously studied Mao Tse-tung's thought, faithfully applied it in his actions, disseminated it with enthusiasm and courageously defended it. He followed Chairman Mao's teachings and wholeheartedly served the people. Through all the heroic anecdotes about him shines the thought of Mao Tse-tung.

Such a hero has been brought up in the great era of Mao Tse-tung, in which countless heroes of his kind are emerging.

All of them have a boundless love, loyalty and esteem for Chairman Mao. Their faith in him is immeasurable. They devote themselves whole-

heartedly to the revolution, they aspire to serve the Chinese people and the people all over the world. Their spirit is that of daring to fight and win; theirs is the courage which will overwhelm all enemies and never yield to them. They are always ready to put above everything else the interests of the revolution, the people and the cause of the liberation of mankind. They are deeply loved by the Chinese people who look upon them as models for their own conduct.

To acquaint our readers abroad with the deeds of these heroes we are compiling and publishing a series of their stories.

LIU Ying-chun was a fighter in an artillery company of the Chinese People's Liberation Army stationed in the city of Kiamusze, Heilungkiang Province. To save the lives of others, he heroically laid down his own on March 15, 1966.

More than twenty years ago, Chairman Mao said:

> We must cultivate a large number of revolutionary vanguards, who are politically far-sighted and imbued with the spirit to fight and to sacrifice. These vanguards are open-hearted, loyal, full of enthusiasm and upright. They seek not personal gains, but only the liberation of the nation and society. They are not afraid of difficulties, but remain steadfast and march courageously forward in the teeth of difficulties. They do not ride the high horse nor seek the limelight, but are practical, with their feet firmly on the ground. If China has a large number of such vanguards, the tasks of the Chinese revolution can be smoothly accomplished.

Liu Ying-chun was one such vanguard, a great communist fighter moulded by the great thought of Mao Tse-tung and one of those upon whom Chairman Mao pins his hopes.

Infinite Love for Chairman Mao

Liu Ying-chun was born into a poor-peasant family on the outskirts of Changchun, Kirin Province. Even when he was still a small child, his parents used to tell him their sufferings in the old society and their happy life in the new. They told him never to forget the past. When he heard that his uncle was killed by the Kuomintang reactionaries, his young eyes dilated with anger. Raising his small fist he said, "When I grow up I'll join the army and avenge my uncle!"

Once his mother took him to an abandoned brick kiln where the family had lived before liberation.

"Mother, what are we doing here?" asked Liu Ying-chun.

"I want to show you what our home looked like in the old days, Ying-chun!" she told him.

"You can't even stand straight inside. How could anyone live here?" Liu Ying-chun asked with amazement.

His mother said painfully: "My boy, this is the place where you were born! At that time, your mother and father had just moved to this city and were working as labourers doing the heaviest kinds of work. We were too poor to have a home of our own and had to sleep in this broken-down kiln. For three days I had nothing to eat before I gave birth to you. I didn't even have hot water to drink. Just think how we lived in the past and how we live today! If it were not for the Party and Chairman Mao who saved us from such an abyss of suffering, I doubt if we would have been alive today. . . ."

Young Liu Ying-chun was deeply moved. He felt in his heart a bitter hatred for the old society and an ardent love for the new and his love for our great leader Chairman Mao became more profound.

In June 1962 when the Chiang Kai-shek brigands, supported by U.S. imperialism, made vain attempts to infiltrate the mainland, Liu Ying-chun applied several times to join the People's Liberation Army. Finally he was accepted. He was then just seventeen.

The People's Liberation Army is a great school of Mao Tse-tung's thought. In the army, by creatively studying and applying Chairman Mao's teachings, Liu Ying-chun more and more deeply realized the brilliance and greatness of Chairman Mao. He said: "When I was a child I loved to sing: 'There is the Polar Star in the sky; there is Mao Tse-tung on earth.' But it was only a few years ago that I began to really understand the meaning of it."

Pointing at the bright Polar Star in the sky, he would heartily sing:

Chairman Mao is the Polar Star of the Chinese people.
Chairman Mao is the Polar Star of the people of the whole world.

On the four walls of his barracks room he hung four portraits of Chairman Mao. He used to stand

in front of one of these portraits and gaze with deep respect at the kindly face of Chairman Mao every day. Every time before his unit moved to another place the first thing he did was to take down the portraits and wrap them in paper. And on arrival at the new place his first task was to dust and clean the walls and hang up these portraits properly.

Before Spring Festival [Chinese New Year] in 1966 Liu Ying-chun was granted leave for a visit home. Before his departure he made a point to speak to his squad leader Li Hung-chi. "Squad Leader," he said, "if our squad has to move, someone must be put in charge of Chairman Mao's portraits. When you get to a new place, hang them up first so that comrades can see Chairman Mao every day." The squad leader asked what else he wanted to say.

"I've nothing else to say," Liu Ying-chun replied. "This is the only thing on my mind!"

What a deep proletarian feeling Liu Ying-chun, the son of a poor peasant, had for our beloved leader Chairman Mao! This feeling is common among the broad masses of the working people all over China.

Conscious Remoulding of World Outlook

By the time Liu Ying-chun joined up, nearly two years had passed since the People's Liberation Army

launched the mass movement for the creative study and application of Chairman Mao's works. This movement was under the brilliant leadership of the Military Commission of the Party's Central Committee and Comrade Lin Piao, designed to hold high the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought. As soon as he joined the army Liu Ying-chun warmly responded to Comrade Lin Piao's call to "study Chairman Mao's writings, follow his teachings, act according to his instructions, and be a good fighter of Chairman Mao". When Chairman Mao issued the great call to "learn from Comrade Lei Feng",[1] Liu Ying-chun more clearly realized that to go forward, make revolution and serve the people, he must really grasp Mao Tse-tung's thought as Lei Feng had done. In order to urge himself forward, he copied Chairman Mao's inscription "Learn from Comrade Lei Feng" in his notebook and wrote it on the wall. Indefatigably he studied Chairman Mao's works. He carried Chairman Mao's writings in his pocket so that he could read them wherever he went. Sometimes when he returned from sentry duty in the small hours of the night, he would still allow

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[1] Lei Feng was a squad leader in a transport company of the Chinese People's Liberation Army stationed in Shenyang. He diligently studied Chairman Mao's works and as a result acquired a high degree of political consciousness, a firm proletarian stand and the noble qualities of serving the people wholeheartedly. He was cited three times for his performance of meritorious deeds and elected a model member of the Communist Youth League. He joined the Chinese Communist Party in November 1960 and died while on duty in August 1962. Chairman Mao has written the inscription "Learn from Lei Feng" in his own hand.

himself a few minutes to read a couple of quotations from Chairman Mao before turning in. Once his unit went to a farm to help gather in soya beans. He carried the heaviest load and ran faster than all the others. His clothes were soaked through with perspiration. When the time came for a break, he took out Chairman Mao's writings and started to read. Seeing that he was very tired, his comrades advised him to take a rest. "Just because I'm tired, I must draw strength from Chairman Mao's works," he said.

After studying Chairman Mao's works, he keenly realized that his writings are "the books for waging class struggle and making revolution". He said, "Chairman Mao's thought has pointed out our way forward." From the bottom of his heart he wrote the following poem:

Chairman Mao's works are our sunshine;
Every word, glittering like gold,
Stirs up a fighter's heart,
And guides his work and study.

He paid particular attention to Chairman Mao's theory on classes and class struggle and acquired a clear viewpoint on these. He wrote in his diary:

> Chairman Mao's works have enabled me to understand that the question of first importance for the revolution is "who are our enemies and who are our friends?" They have also made me understand the meaning of class struggle, proletarian revolution, dictatorship of the proletariat, communism. . . .

In his studies, he made persistent efforts to remould his world outlook and ceaselessly worked to remould himself. He did this because he knew that the class struggle inside and outside China and the cause of the revolution required him to do so.

He was very strict with himself. When he discovered his own shortcomings, he would openly admit them, make a self-criticism of his own accord and resolutely remedy them. Late one night in the winter of 1965, while he was standing sentry outside the barracks, he fired his rifle by accident. When Li Chih-fang, the assistant political instructor, came to inspect the sentry posts, he at once reported it to him and requested that disciplinary measures be taken against him. "Wait and see what the leadership have to say about this after they have discussed it," said Li.

Early next morning, an article written by Liu Ying-chun appeared on the blackboard newspaper in the passage of the barracks building. The title, written in glaring big characters, was "How Serious Accidents Can Happen". Throughout the article, he criticized himself for having accidentally fired his rifle and at the end he said that his carelessness might serve as a warning to others. On the same morning, he delivered a letter of self-criticism to the company headquarters written on December 5, 1965, at 03:27. The assistant political instructor was deeply moved. "Liu Ying-chun erred by accident," he said. "Yet he stayed up all night to examine himself. What an excellent spirit of self-criticism!"

Liu Ying-chun would not only thoroughly examine himself when he made a mistake. What is more praiseworthy is that he would also follow Chairman Mao's teachings and measure himself by a high standard after he had done a good deed. In the winter of 1963, a window-pane was broken in the stable. When Liu Ying-chun returned from his sentry duty on a night of snowstorm, he nailed a wooden board over it. When he had finished, it was already past one o'clock. Tired and sleepy as he was, he sat himself down at a desk and started to read Chairman Mao's "In Memory of Norman Bethune". When Squad Leader Hsiung Chih-yi returned from his rounds of inspection of the sentry posts, he asked him why he was not in bed. Liu Ying-chun answered, "I found the window-pane broken long ago and didn't block it up then. I want to find out why I didn't."

"You've nailed it up, haven't you? Isn't that good enough?"

"No, you can't put it that way," Liu Ying-chun shook his head. "Chairman Mao said that Comrade Bethune's spirit, his utter devotion to others without any thought of self, was shown in his boundless sense of responsibility in his work. How about me? What I lack is this boundless sense of responsibility!"

Liu Ying-chun tried always to study Chairman Mao's works and apply what he had learnt for the sake of the revolution. He fully linked theory with practice and the remoulding of his subjective world with the transformation of the objective world.

In the spring of 1964, the artillery company was sent to another place to perform guard duties. Two squads of men had to sleep in one room. The company command decided to tidy up the room next door so that some of the men could move in there. The adjacent room had been used as a kitchen. Its four walls were blackened by smoke and there was much accumulated soot and dust. Some of the men were not quite certain whether they could clean up the room in time. At first Liu Ying-chun also said, "That's a hard job!" But he quickly saw that this was not in accordance with Chairman Mao's teachings on how to deal with difficulties. He immediately went to the assistant squad leader and criticized himself. He suggested that the whole squad study Chairman Mao's "The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains" so that their enthusiasm could be aroused.

The work to repair the room began. Liu Ying-chun worked the hardest. He chose the dirtiest and the most exhausting jobs. His hands were blistered by the lime with which they whitewashed the walls. After some strenuous work, the dirty, dilapidated room took on a new look.

"Fish swim in water. Melons grow on vines. Revolutionary fighters are matured by the great thought of Mao Tse-tung." Through the study of Chairman Mao's works and by tempering himself in practice, Liu Ying-chun thus gradually acquired a proletarian world outlook. He wrote in his diary:

Genuine communists are persons who have freed themselves from the bondage of the petty "self". They have only the interests of the revolution and the collective in their minds. They do with enthusiasm anything that is in the interest of the revolution and the collective, give no consideration to personal fame and position and care not a straw what others have to say about them. They are the most noble-minded people of the whole mankind. Bethune was such a person. ... I will look upon Bethune as my model ... and always be a vanguard of the revolution.

A revolutionary must struggle. If we are afraid to struggle, we shall certainly not dare to make revolution. For us proletarian revolutionaries who have dedicated ourselves to the revolutionary cause of communism, can there be a still greater happiness than taking part in the revolutionary struggle?

> Live for the revolution; die for the revolution. All for the revolution; the revolution is above everything else.

He also wrote: "To die for the people is weightier than Mount Tai. Those who live for the people are also weightier than Mount Tai."

He always had the Chinese revolution and the world revolution in the front of his mind. Every time Chairman Mao made a statement in support of the revolutionary struggle of the people of various countries against imperialism, he would warmly and clearly express his own attitude. Once he went out to do some shopping and saw in the newspapers

Chairman Mao's statement in support of the people of the Congo (Leopoldville) against U.S. aggression. He immediately bought a copy, ran back to the barracks and organized the whole squad to study it. That night he wrote a long moving poem entitled "Chairman Mao's Statement Illumines the Whole Globe", in which he stated that at the order of his motherland he would at once go to war and destroy the aggressors side by side with the people of the Congo (Leopoldville). When the U.S. imperialists expanded their war of aggression in Vietnam, he immediately wrote a request for permission to take part in the struggle to aid Vietnam and resist U.S. aggression.

Truly and Really for the People

Chairman Mao said:

> It is not hard for one to do a bit of good. What is hard is to do good all one's life and never do anything bad, to act consistently in the interests of the broad masses, the young people and the revolution, and to engage in arduous struggle for decades on end. That is the hardest thing of all!

Liu Ying-chun persistently followed this instruction of Chairman Mao. He had integrated his will to serve the people with a down-to-earth attitude to do the everyday things that are in the interests of the collective and the people. He often spent a

festive day or a holiday helping people with genuine enthusiasm and great warmth of heart.

One cold winter, a thick mound of ice was formed like an "ice hill" around the mouth of a well in a residential area near his billet. It caused tremendous inconvenience for the local people when they came to draw water from the well. One Sunday morning when Liu Ying-chun passed there and saw it, he borrowed a pickaxe and a spade from a near-by house, took off his cotton-padded coat and started to remove it. He worked with such energy that his white shirt was soon soaked through with sweat although it was such a cold day that a drop of water poured out would freeze as soon as it reached the ground.

"That will do! Come to my house and take a rest!" an old woman kindly offered.

"I'm not tired, auntie!" answered Liu Ying-chun as he continued to hack away with the pickaxe. That morning he did not return to his billet until it was well past eleven. Later he went there several more times during his off-duty hours and eventually removed the "ice hill" and tidied up the well-top.

On another day, there was a snowstorm. On returning home from a meeting, a local woman named Wang Wen-chin found that her two children were not in the house. She was terribly worried for her son Chi-min was not yet four and her nine-year-old daughter Yen-chun, a victim of infantile paralysis, could not walk properly. If they lost their way, they would be in danger of being buried in a snow-drift.

As she was wondering where they could have gone, the door opened with a creak. Liu Ying-chun came in carrying Chi-min in his arm and holding Yen-chun by the hand, his uniform covered with snow. "Auntie," he said warmly. "I saw them in the street. They could hardly walk in the snow, and the traffic was heavy. It's dangerous. So I brought them home." Wang Wen-chin was deeply moved and asked him to sit down and rest for a while. "I must go to my study group," Liu Ying-chun said and ran straight out of the house.

Liu Ying-chun was always trying to be of use to the people. Like Lei Feng, he found great happiness in helping others.

One day, on his way back to the billet from the company headquarters, it suddenly started to rain, and soon his clothes were wet through. As he walked in the downpour, he saw an ox-cart fully laden with gourds stuck in the middle of a stream. The old cart-driver kept on urging the ox forward, but the animal stood there and refused to move an inch. The heavy rain was now beginning to lash down; the swirling water in the stream was rising swiftly. The whole cart-load of gourds was in danger of being washed away. Liu Ying-chun quickly walked into the stream to help push the cart, giving no heed to the force of the current. But it was no use; the cart was too heavy. He and the old driver then began to unload the cart basket by basket. They worked very fast and when the ox was relieved of its burden it slowly pulled the cart out of the stream.

All this took more than an hour. The rain was still pouring down. Liu Ying-chun shivered with cold. After he helped the driver re-load the cart, the old man thanked him profusely. "Don't mention it," said Liu Ying-chun, "I did it because Chairman Mao told me to learn from Lei Feng."

He did a great deal of good in his unit too. He made boards for writing quotations from Chairman Mao, book-shelves and letter-boxes, repaired doors and windows, tables and chairs, knitted basket-ball nets, wrote posters. . . . Any work that would benefit the unit he would do, and do it quietly. His comrades said, "We can hardly count the number of good deeds Liu Ying-chun did."

These actions of Liu Ying-chun had two clear characteristics:

The first was that he performed them from a clear-cut class standpoint.

He had the deepest class feelings towards the poor and lower-middle peasants. Every time his unit went out camping or came to a new billet, he would make a social survey of the local inhabitants and see who was a poor or lower-middle peasant and which was the family of a martyr or an armyman. Then he would help them with their work in the field and do all sorts of household chores such as carrying grain, water and coal. There was an old couple both in their sixties in the village where Liu Ying-chun's unit once billeted. Seeing that they lived alone and had no young people in the house, Liu Ying-chun went almost every day to carry water for them and sweep their courtyard. "I'm the son of a

poor peasant," he said. "I must show concern for a poor peasant when he is in difficulties." As winter was near, he dug a vegetable cellar for them by working very early in the morning and late in the evening. When the time came for his unit to move to another place, the old woman, with tears in her eyes, said to the company commander, "This boy is really good to us poor and lower-middle peasants!"

The second characteristic was that he would never give his name after he had done good deeds. He would neither mention them to his superiors and comrades nor record them in his diary for he had no intention of showing himself off at all.

He always made himself useful to the people living in the neighbourhood of his billet. The longer he stayed there, the more the people came to like him for the services he rendered. They wanted to write to his unit to express their gratitude. But nobody knew his real name.

One day, Lin Tsui-lan, a local woman, said to him, "Comrade, you've done so many things for us. But we don't know your name yet." Liu Ying-chun hesitated for a while and then said, "My name is Wang. You may call me Comrade Wang." [Wang is a very common Chinese name.] The woman then asked him, "Where is your unit quartered?"

"We are neighbours," Liu Ying-chun told her and departed with a smile on his face.

It was only when people saw his photograph in the newspaper after his death did they know that he was Liu Ying-chun.

Liu Ying-chun always had the revolution and the people in his mind. His conduct fully demonstrated the noble qualities of a proletarian revolutionary fighter who works not for personal fame or profit, but truly and wholeheartedly for the people.

Politics Comes First

Chairman Mao tells us that politics is the commander, the soul. Political work is the lifeline of our army. Liu Ying-chun firmly followed this instruction.

In 1964, he was sent to attend a gunnery training class. Most of those attending the class were squad leaders or assistant squad leaders who were already more or less proficient in military skills. As a gun-carriage driver who had just been made a gunner, Liu Ying-chun had quite a few difficulties in his studies. However, as he believed that techniques must be placed under the command of politics, the more difficulties he encountered, the more he studied Chairman Mao's works and drew the necessary strength to overcome them. No matter how intensive the training was, he never gave up studying Chairman Mao's works every day.

One afternoon, Liu Ying-chun and a squad leader who had come to the training class with him, got together to draw up a plan for helping each other. Their opinion differed as to how to spend their Sundays. The squad leader was of the opinion that since Liu Ying-chun was less proficient than the others in basic military skills, he should review his military lessons on Sundays.

Liu Ying-chun thought he should study more of Chairman Mao's works and do mass work on Sundays. "The creative study and application of Chairman Mao's works is the most important subject," he argued. "Once we place the study of Chairman Mao's works in the first place and arm ourselves with Mao Tse-tung's thought, we can certainly master military skills!"

Liu Ying-chun persevered in what he thought was correct and showed a high degree of understanding in giving politics the first place. At the end of the training course, he had not only raised his ideological consciousness to a new level, but also obtained excellent military marks in the tests.

Liu Ying-chun showed great concern for the political ideological work of his unit. He often put forward proposals in relation to this to the leadership and did much political ideological work of his own accord.

One Saturday evening, when Platoon Leader Li Chang-wan announced to the men lined up before him that the next day would be a holiday, everybody began to discuss what he was going to do the following day. Suddenly a telephone message came from company headquarters saying that there were some egg-plant seedlings which must be planted the next morning. The platoon leader was wondering how to mobilize the fighters to do this urgent work

when Liu Ying-chun stepped forward and, as if he had guessed what was in the platoon leader's mind, said in a firm voice: "We must finish the work assigned to us by headquarters." Later he suggested that they study Chairman Mao's article "On Production by the Army for Its Own Support and on the Importance of the Great Movements for Rectification and for Production". He asked the platoon leader to explain the article to the men and make them see the significance of the army doing productive work. "Once they have a better understanding, I'm sure they will work better," said he.

The next morning, the men studied Chairman Mao's article before they set out to work. All of them warmly responded to the call of headquarters and worked with great enthusiasm. The work which was calculated to take half a day, was finished in a little over two hours.

Liu Ying-chun was also a pace-setter in the cultural revolution in his unit. In the company's cultural and recreational activities, with notable awareness he always made a point of giving prominence to politics and followed the policy that art and literature should serve the workers, peasants and soldiers.

In the winter of 1965, all the men in the company assembled for study from their different posts in various places. This provided better conditions for cultural and recreational activities. One day, Liu Ying-chun walked in high spirits into the company headquarters. "I have a proposal to make," he said to the company commander. "How about reviving our

singing and performing group, and after that's done, maybe you could give us a talk."

"It's a good idea. But what am I going to speak about?" asked the commander.

"If you can speak on Chairman Mao's 'Talks at the Yenan Forum on Literature and Art', it will be the very thing we need. After your talk, we can study the article and find the right direction for our activities. . . ."

Liu Ying-chun had a lot to say about Chairman Mao's article himself. "The singing and performing group of our company has only a repertoire of small, short items which we compose and perform ourselves," he said. "But even small items must have a correct orientation. We must do as Chairman Mao requires us to do in his 'Talks', and make art and literature serve proletarian politics and help give prominence to politics and grasp living ideas. A great many more exemplary people and things have appeared in our company this year as a result of our creative study and application of Chairman Mao's works. The job of our group at present is to extol these exemplary people and things."

When the singing and performing group was formed again, the company commander gave the group a talk on the substance of Chairman Mao's article as Liu Ying-chun had suggested. After that, Liu Ying-chun organized the group to make a thorough study of the article. As they had found the right direction for their work, their enthusiasm soared. All the items on their repertoire were closely associated with the current situation and class

education, or were eulogies of exemplary people and things. Consequently all their performances were warmly welcomed by the cadres and fighters in the company and went a long way to revolutionize their ideology. Many of the items were written, adapted or revised by Liu Ying-chun himself.

Propagating and Defending Mao Tse-tung's Thought

Chairman Mao said, "We should work hard . . . to disseminate socialism and communism throughout the working class." Liu Ying-chun responded to this call in practice. Energetically and enthusiastically he took every opportunity and adopted various ways to propagate Mao Tse-tung's thought in his company and among the ordinary people and draw their attention to the achievements of the advanced people armed with Mao Tse-tung's thought.

With the greatest revolutionary devotion, Liu Ying-chun organized and helped his comrades to study Chairman Mao's works. He often said: "The revolution is a matter of concern to all of us. You and I have a share in it. If there is one man who does not study Chairman Mao's works, there will be one share of strength less to work for the revolution. In this sense, it is not a matter concerning an individual alone!"

Once while Liu Ying-chun was recuperating in a hospital, a book-store sent someone to sell the *Selected Readings from the Works of Mao Tse-tung.* He bought twenty-five copies of it and sent them back to the company, because he knew many comrades wanted to buy Chairman Mao's works. This action of his is an expression of the greatest political concern for his comrades.

In 1965, a new recruit named Han Shao-ying was transferred to the artillery company. On the evening of his arrival, Liu Ying-chun said to him: "We are revolutionary fighters. To be good fighters we must study Chairman Mao's works, follow his teachings and act according to his instructions. Of all things this is the most important." As he said so, he began to study the article "Serve the People" with him. Han Shao-ying stayed in the company for only nine days before he was transferred to a logistics department. Liu Ying-chun formed a close friendship with him in these nine days. He took every opportunity to help him study Chairman Mao's works, whether they were in the billet or camping in the field. Even on the morning of the ninth day, when Liu Ying-chun was seeing him off, he again and again urged him to diligently study Chairman Mao's works and so better serve the people.

Liu Ying-chun was in charge of lantern-slide shows in his company. In this work he always tried his best to disseminate Mao Tse-tung's thought. He made a set of lantern-slides about Lei Feng, in which he laid stress on how Lei Feng diligently studied Chairman Mao's works. Every time before he began to draw a set of lantern-slides, he would conscientiously study Chairman Mao's works per-

tinent to the subject and arm himself ideologically. He would do this even when he was hard pressed by time and work, because he believed that an educator must first educate himself and a propaganda worker must first take in correct ideas himself. He believed that only when one thoroughly understands Mao Tse-tung's thought, can one successfully spread it. Even when he used ready-made slides, he would carefully select a few quotations from Chairman Mao and include them in the commentary. He would also begin and end the show with Chairman Mao's sayings. "I must let comrades constantly hear Chairman Mao's teachings," he often said. When he found materials of educational value for the comrades, he often worked day and night drawing lantern-slides on that subject so that his comrades could see them immediately. When the story of Wang Chieh[1] appeared in the newspapers in 1965, he showed his comrades the newspaper he had been reading and said, "Wang Chieh is another Lei Feng

[1] Wang Chieh was a squad leader in an engineering company attached to an armoured unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army stationed in Tsinan, Shantung Province, and a model member of the Communist Youth League. By creatively studying and applying Chairman Mao's works and making unremitting efforts to arm himself with Mao Tse-tung's thought, he became in a short space of time a great revolutionary fighter who had the interests of his country and the future of the world at heart. In July 1965, while he was helping a group of militia in their training, a pack of dynamite began to hiss and smoulder. He threw himself on the pack just before it exploded and, by heroically sacrificing his own life, saved the lives of eleven militiamen and a cadre. He was only twenty-three when he died.

of our time. He's a good fighter of Chairman Mao. We must learn from him."

It was already midnight, but Liu Ying-chun was still leaning over his small desk drawing lantern-slides depicting the life of Wang Chieh. "Better turn in now. You've guard duty in the morning!" an assistant squad leader in charge of the patrols said to him with concern. "I must finish them tonight. Otherwise the comrades won't be able to see them at tomorrow night's show," said Liu Ying-chun. In this way, he made twenty-three sets of lantern-slides within one year up to March 1966.

In 1965, the company was dispersed in seven different places. So that every comrade in the company could see an instructive show, he often carried the projector on his back and made a tour of all these places to show his slides. He never minded what hardship he had to suffer. He even made a special trip to a detail of three men who were stationed seven miles from the company headquarters. "Our job is to spread Mao Tse-tung's thought," he said. "To show the slides to one man more is to enable one more man to be educated by Mao Tse-tung's thought."

Liu Ying-chun made two beautiful wooden boards on which he wrote quotations from Chairman Mao and hung them on the walls. He wanted them to be a constant reminder to everybody to act according to Mao Tse-tung's thought. He changed the quotations every few days. A group of new recruits had just joined his squad then, and he found that one or two of the veterans had not shown sufficient concern

for them. So he wrote the following quotation in neat characters on one of the boards:

> We hail from all corners of the country and have joined together for a common revolutionary objective. . . . all people in the revolutionary ranks must care for each other, must love and help each other.

That evening he read that quotation to all the comrades in the squad. A fighter by the name of Wang Chia-hao had not been friendly enough to the new recruits on some occasions. When he saw the quotation, he said in surprise, "Before I read this quotation, I thought I was all right. But when I compared myself with what Chairman Mao said, I found I had not acted according to his instructions." He then took the initiative to speak to the new recruits and admitted to them that he had been wrong. All the other comrades too began to pay more attention to helping each other politically and assisting each other in their daily life.

Beginning from 1965 till the time of his death, Liu Ying-chun had altogether selected and copied more than a hundred quotations from Chairman Mao on such subjects as class struggle, serving the people, people's war, criticism and self-criticism, diligence and frugality, and unity. With these quotations he helped solve in good time some ideological problems of his comrades and effectively accelerated the revolutionization of their thinking.

Liu Ying-chun regarded letter-writing as an important channel for disseminating Mao Tse-tung's thought. When writing a letter, he often wrote a quotation from Chairman Mao on the envelope, so that the first thing the recipient saw would be Chairman Mao's instructions. Every time he wrote to a comrade, friend or schoolmate, he always urged them to conscientiously study Chairman Mao's works. He also suggested that they steadfastly follow Comrade Lin Piao's instructions, that when studying Chairman Mao's works, one must "study to find a solution to a particular problem on hand, study and apply creatively, integrate study and application, and study first what is urgently needed so as to get quick results".

Liu Ying-chun had a school friend named Tien Jui-lien, who had left school owing to bad health. When Liu Ying-chun went home on leave during the Spring Festival in 1966, he saw her and from their talk learned that she had recovered from her illness and wanted to stay to work in the city. Liu Ying-chun told her that the industries needed people but the agricultural front needed people more. "In my opinion," he said, "we should go where we are needed most by the motherland. It's true to work on the farm means a harder life, but we young people should always be prepared to shoulder a heavy burden." Tien Jui-lien accepted his advice and promised to meet the needs of the motherland.

When Liu Ying-chun returned to his unit, he immediately wrote her two letters, encouraging her to work on the farm.

On March 12, three days before his heroic sacrifice, Liu Ying-chun wrote to her again, advising her to

strike root in the countryside. In the letter he quoted Chairman Mao's instructions:

> How should we judge whether a youth is a revolutionary? How can we tell? There can only be one criterion, namely, whether or not he is willing to integrate himself with the broad masses of workers and peasants and does so in practice.

He encouraged Tien Jui-lien to study Chairman Mao's writings, follow his teachings and act according to his instuctions, work where the Party assigned her to work and resolve to build a socialist new countryside.

After reading this letter imbued with Mao Tse-tung's thought, Tien Jui-lien eventually made up her mind to be a peasant. Like Liu Ying-chun, she eagerly helped three of her schoolmates to persuade their parents into letting them take part in work on the land.

Liu Ying-chun also showed particular concern for the healthy development of the children. He educated them in the thought of Mao Tse-tung and led them forward in the direction of becoming Red successors. During his off-duty hours, he acted as a counsellor for extra-curricula activities in a primary school. The first time he met the children he spoke to them about the hard life of the working people in the old society. He took them to a monument to revolutionary martyrs and told them that the happy life of today did not come easily but was paid for with the blood of the martyrs. He bade them to remember the past miseries of the exploited classes

and value the happiness of today. He encouraged them to study Chairman Mao's writings, follow his teachings, act according to his instructions and be good children of Chairman Mao. During his leisure hours, he often went to the school to find out what was in the minds of the children, talk with them, visit their homes, organize them to study Chairman Mao's works.... One day he saw a child painting some pictures of ancient officials and warriors. He said to him, "Red children should paint Red heroes, heroes nurtured by Mao Tse-tung's thought." Later he bought the children a dozen picture-story books about revolutionary heroes. "Red children should read Red books," he said to them.

From his own experience Liu Ying-chun knew that one cannot work for the revolution without Mao Tse-tung's thought. That was why he wanted everybody to grasp it. Indeed he had taken the dissemination of Mao Tse-tung's thought as a major task all his life.

In the midst of the class struggle, Liu Ying-chun creatively studied and applied Mao Tse-tung's thought and courageously defended it. He kept a firm stand and a strict political vigilance. He was constantly on guard not only against possible armed incursions by the imperialists, but also against the plots of the class enemies at home and abroad for "peaceful evolution". The fallacies uttered by some people who are against the Party, socialism and Mao Tse-tung's thought aroused hot indignation in him. The moment he saw through them he would resolutely strike back and fight firmly and boldly to de-

fend Mao Tse-tung's thought. Ever since 1964, he had written some trenchant criticisms of a number of bad films and books.

Giving His Own Life to Save the Lives of the People

A man has only one life. Although life is precious, it is not as precious as the motherland. For the sake of the motherland, the people and the truth to which I devote myself wholeheartedly, I shall feel proud, honoured and happy even if I have to sacrifice my life and my youth.

Thus Liu Ying-chun wrote in his diary. His action was consistent with his words. When he was needed by the people, he did not in the least hesitate to give his own life.

On the morning of March 15, 1966, the city of Kiamusze was a world of ice and snow. Liu Ying-chun and his comrades were driving three gun-carriages along a highway in the suburbs of the city to their training centre. When they came near a bus stop, Liu Ying-chun's shaft horse shied at the sound of the bus horns. It turned round and ran, pulling the gun-carriage behind it. It was the busiest hour of the day; children were going to school and people were on their way to work.

As horse and carriage dashed headlong along the busy highway, the situation was desperate. Breathlessly running alongside in spite of the horse's speed, Liu Ying-chun gave a hard shove at the neck of the bolting horse with his shoulder and diverted it onto a path that ran parallel to the highway on the left. A disastrous accident was thus avoided.

But the horse continued to gallop down the path which was flanked by ice and snow on either side. Still holding the reins tightly in his hands, Liu Ying-chun was virtually being dragged along the road. The pedestrians saw the danger and shouted, "Let go! Let go!" At this moment, standing in the middle of the path at a distance were six children who were petrified with fright. Their lives were hanging by a thread.

Liu Ying-chun struggled to his feet, wound the reins round his arm and gave a hard, sudden pull. The horse reared. In this split second, Liu Ying-chun grasped the shaft of the carriage and despite the obvious danger, kicked the animal's hind legs with all his might. The horse was pushed off balance and the gun-carriage overturned. The six children were out of danger, but Liu Ying-chun himself fell under the suddenly overturned horse and carriage and was fatally injured.

The passers-by who witnessed this heroic act of self-sacrifice were deeply moved. They rushed up to the scene of accident, pulled him out from under the horse and carriage, and took him to a near-by hospital. People who had been waiting for buses, workers and students all followed behind. Profoundly stirred by his heroism, they inquired with concern, "Who is he? Who is this PLA man?" A middle-

aged woman said with tears in her eyes, "He's our brother." Several hundred people and PLA fighters soon gathered in front of the hospital and volunteered to donate blood to the hero. "We must save his life!" they said. "We'll give whatever he needs. If only we can bring him back to life!"

An intense battle to save Liu Ying-chun's life began in the operating theatre. Ambulances carrying plasma, oxygen and medicines for emergencies rushed to the hospital from all parts of the city. But all rescue measures proved ineffectual. Mortally wounded, Liu Ying-chun died three hours later. He was only twenty-one.

After Liu Ying-chun's death, the people of all walks of life in the city of Kiamusze held a grand memorial meeting. They requested that Liu Ying-chun be buried in Kiamusze. Their representatives met Chu Hsiu-lan, mother of the hero, at the meeting. "Liu Ying-chun is your son," they said. "He is also the son of the 300,000 people of Kiamusze. He died for us. We want always to remember him and learn from him. Let his red heart always be linked with the hearts of our 300,000 people of Kiamusze."

"I sent my son to the army to protect our motherland. Now that the people of Kiamusze need him, I'll leave him with you!" said the mother.

To commemorate Liu Ying-chun, the people planted a pine at the spot where he was killed and built a flower-bed in the shape of a five-point star around it. Old men and children often come to water and look after the tree. People passing by look at the pine with respect and call the hero to mind.

A movement to learn from Liu Ying-chun has unfolded in the whole Chinese People's Liberation Army and among the entire population. People say: "Liu Ying-chun is an excellent model for us to copy. We must follow his example in having an infinite love for Chairman Mao, creatively studying and applying Chairman Mao's works and being a good fighter and pupil of Chairman Mao."

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look after the frog. People passing by look at the picture with respect and call the hero to mind.

A movement to learn from Lin Yiug-chun has mobilized in the whole Chinese People's Liberation Army and among the entire population. People say: "Lin Yiug-chun is an excellent model for us to copy. We must follow his example in having an infinite love for Chairman Mao, creatively studying and applying Chairman Mao's works and being a good fighter and pupil of Chairman Mao."